

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
Steve Jensen, Editor



Connecticut Department of Agriculture
August 2, 2017



DEMAND FOR PEACHES, OTHER STONE FRUIT HEATS UP AFTER LAST YEAR'S DEEP FREEZE

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

EAST WINDSOR - Working the farmers' markets in Ellington and South Windsor last weekend, Gary Draghi saw first-hand how the wipeout of the state's 2016 peach crop by a mid-winter deep freeze left customers clamoring for them this season.

"We sold 30 boxes in about an hour and a half," Draghi (pictured above right) said Monday at his family's Scantic Road farm. "Even after we ran out people kept coming by asking 'No more peaches? No more plums?'"

And although this year's early peach crop was strong and the harvest is expected to be plentiful overall, many growers are going through a lull this week due to some recent cool weather that has delayed the later varieties.

"It's been cold at night so the fruit's not ripening," Draghi said. "I mean, 50-degrees at night in July? That's not normal."

But with conditions turning much hotter this week, Draghi said growers are optimistic they will be able to meet the expected demand.

"Everybody's saying that this week the gap is going to be filled in with all the different varieties coming in," he

said. "By the end of this week we should be back with peaches again."

Draghi, a retired postal carrier who took over the farm from his father Peter several years ago, picked his first peaches about two weeks ago.

Many of the early varieties are "clingstone," in which the meat of the fruit sticks to the pit, meaning they can be susceptible to having the pit split in half and create a hollow in the peach.

Later varieties, such as the traditional Red Haven that Draghi expects to begin picking later this week, are called "freestone" because the meat is free from the pit.

"Red Haven has been around forever and I believe it was the first freestone," Draghi said as he tended to the farm's retail stand housed in a small red-and-white barn. "Once Red Haven starts they all come right away – boom, boom, boom."

Draghi grows about six acres of peaches and plums, about eight acres of apples, and offers pick-your-own as well as retail.

Last spring, he planted about 200 new peach trees, which look like
(Continued on Page 3)



NORTHEAST EGGS/USDAPer doz. Grade A and Grade A white
in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.89	1.03
LARGE	.84	.98
MEDIUM	.50	.63

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGSPer doz. Grade A brown in
carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.47	1.51
LARGE	1.43	1.47
MEDIUM	.85	.94
SMALL	.54	.58

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	58.00	65.50
48-52	200-300 lbs	51.00	60.00
Sows, US 1-3	300-500 lbs	53.00	66.50
	500-800 lbs	68.50	71.50
Boars	200-300 lbs	36.50	36.50
	500-800 lbs	20.00	24.00

CARLISLE, PA. FEEDER PIG

July 24, 2017

US 1-2		
22-29 LBS	164.00	320.00
31-36 LBS	110.00	168.00
40-49 LBS	124.00	148.00
67 LBS	100.00	104.00
70-79 LBS	70.00	100.00
81-87 LBS	62.00	90.00
128 LBS	84.00	84.00
US 2		
17-26 LBS	198.00	226.00
40 LBS	117.00	138.00
50-58 LBS	100.00	116.00
61-68 LBS	98.00	111.00
71-78 LBS	90.00	114.00
104-126 LBS	76.00	80.00

USDA WHOLESALE CUTFLOWERS

August 1, 2017. \$/pack as noted.

ALLIUM, DRMSTC, NENG, BN	8.50	9.00
ASTER, CA, MATSUMOTO, BN	7.50	8.50
ASTILBE, CA, 10/BN, LONG	12.50	12.50
CELOSIA, PA, PLUMOSA, BN	8.50	8.50
DAHLIA, 5/BN, CA, LONG	12.50	15.00
DELPHINIUM, 10/BN, CA, LONG	12.50	12.50
ECHINACEA, PA, BN, LONG	8.50	8.50
GLAD, STD, 10/BN, CA, NJ, LNG	8.50	15.00
GOMPHRENA, PA, /BN, LONG	8.50	8.50
HYDRANGEA, STEM, NL, LNG	5.00	5.95
IRIS, DUTCH, 10/BN, CA, L	6.50	7.50
LAVENDER, PA, PER BN, LNG	12.00	12.00
LIATRIS, EC, 10/BN, LONG	7.50	8.50
LILIES, ASIA, /BN, CA, LONG	13.50	15.00
LILIES, ASIA, /BN, CA, XLNG	16.50	18.00
LISISANTHUS, NENG, 10/BN, L	16.00	18.00
PEONY, 10/BN, SEMI-DBL, NL, L	35.00	35.00
QUEEN ANNE LACE, /BN, CA, L	8.50	9.50
RUDBECKIA, PA, BN, LONG	8.50	8.50
SNAPDRAGON, 10/BN, NENG, L	12.00	12.00
STATICE, SINUATA, /BN, CD, L	5.00	5.00
STOCK, CA, DBL, 10/BN, LNG	12.00	12.00
SUNFLOWER, 5/BN, NENG, XL	6.50	6.50
SUNFLOWER, 10/BN, PA, LONG	8.50	8.50
YARROW, YLW, /BN, CD, L	8.50	8.50
ZINNIA, PA, /BN, LONG	6.50	6.50

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLESBoston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEANS, GRN, HNDPKD, BU	26.00	30.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	40.00	40.00
BLUEBERRY, 12-1PT CUP W/LID	27.00	36.00
BLUEBERRY, WILD, 12-1 PT FILM	60.00	60.00
BROCCOLI, CTN, BNCHD, 14	14.00	16.00
BROCCOLI, CRWNCUT, 20 LBS	16.00	16.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, 50 LBS	12.00	12.00
CAULIFLOWER, 9S, JKTPK	18.00	18.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
COLLARDS, CRATE, BNCHD, 12	12.00	12.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	14.00	18.00
CUKE, PICKLING, 1/2 BU, SM	6.00	8.00
CUKE, PICKLING, 1-1/9, 200-300	24.00	24.00
CUKES, SUPER SELECT, 1-1/9	18.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, 1-1/9	16.00	18.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	12.00	13.00
KALE, LACINITO, BUNCHED, 12	14.00	14.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24	15.00	15.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 1-1/9 BU	58.00	60.00
PEPPER, GREEN BELL, XL, 1-1/9	18.00	20.00
RHUBARB, OPN FIELD, 20 LB	35.00	35.00
SQUASH, YELSTRNCK, M, 1/2 BU	10.00	10.00
SQUASH, YELSTRNCK, S, 1/2 BU	14.00	14.00
SQUASH, YELLOW, 1/2 BU	14.00	16.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, S, 1/2 BU	10.00	10.00
SWISS CHARD, MIXED, CTN, 12	15.00	15.00
TOM, GHS, CHRRY, ON VINE, 5 LB	13.00	14.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMS, GHS, VNRP, 25 LBS	18.00	22.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS, ON VINE	12.00	14.00

CONNECTICUT FARMERS' MARKET

Price per lb or as noted. Week of July 25-28, 2017.

APPLES, JERSEY MAC, HANDLE	15.00	17.00
APPLES, LODI, 8 QT HANDLE	6.00	6.00
BASIL, PER BUNCH	2.00	3.00
BEANS, QT	3.00	3.00
BEETS, RED, PER BUNCH	2.00	2.00
CARROTS, ORNG, PER BUNCH	2.00	2.00
CARROTS, RNBW, PER BUNCH	2.00	3.00
CORN, SWEET, EACH	.33	.50
CUKES, /2	1.00	1.50
CUKES, EACH	.75	1.50
CUKES, 1/2 BU	10.00	15.00
DILL, PER BUNCH	5.00	5.00
EGGS, PER DOZEN	3.00	3.00
GREENS, /BUNCH	2.00	3.00
PARSLEY, BUNCH	2.00	2.00
PEACHES, QUART	3.00	4.50
PEACHES, 8 QT HANDLE BSKT	13.00	17.00
PEPPERS, HOT, QT	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, JALEPENO, PT	3.00	3.00
PEPPERS, PURPL OR GRN, 2/	1.00	1.00
PICKLING CUKES, QT	3.00	3.00
PICKLING CUKES, 1/2 BU	10.00	15.00
SQUASH, QUART	3.00	4.00
TOMATILLOS, PINT	2.00	2.00
TOMATOES, PER QT	4.00	4.00
TOMATO, CHERRY, HNDL BSKT	15.00	15.00
TOMATO, PURPLCHRRY, HBSKT	15.00	15.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - July 31, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	35.00	40.00
61-75 lbs.	45.00	56.00
76-90 lbs.	85.00	90.00
91-105 lbs.	92.50	95.00
106 lbs. & up	102.50	105.00
Farm Calves	110.00	115.00
Starter Calves	38.00	42.00
Veal Calves	87.50	125.00
Feeder Heifers	65.00	95.00
Beef Heifers	100.00	103.00
Feeder Steers	90.00	95.00
Beef Steers	97.50	107.00
Feeder Bulls	80.00	115.00
Beef Bulls	81.00	97.50
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	52.50	105.00
Sheep each	50.00	130.00
Lambs each	75.00	250.00
Goats each	85.00	310.00
Kid Goats each	80.00	170.00
Canners	up to	70.00
Cutters	71.00	74.00
Utility Grade Cows	75.00	78.00
Rabbits each	5.00	22.50
Chickens each	2.00	20.00
Ducks each	5.00	35.00

LANCASTER, PA. LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	71.00	75.50
boners 80-85% lean	69.00	73.50
lean 88-90% lean	61.00	67.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	120.00	125.00
Choice 2-3	116.00	120.00
Select 1-2	112.00	116.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Choice/Prime 3-4	98.00	101.00
Choice 2-3	94.00	97.00
Sel 1-2	85.00	94.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	113.00	117.50
Choice 2-3	106.00	113.00
Sel	100.00	105.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 112-130 lbs	130.00	137.00
No 1 96-110 lbs	147.00	158.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn Mkts:		
Ch/Prime 2-3 90-110 lbs	179.00	205.00
Ch/Prime 2-3 110-130 lbs	155.00	189.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	95.00	110.00
120-160 lbs	90.00	110.00
160-200 lbs	80.00	100.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	110.00	130.00
40-60 lbs	135.00	170.00
60-80 lbs	160.00	200.00
80-100 lbs	185.00	205.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	180.00	210.00
130-180 lbs	230.00	265.00

(Continued from Page 1)

little more than waist-high sticks when first planted but are expected to produce fruit in another year or two.

The new trees will increase the size of his peach orchard and replace older trees that he has started to cut down as they reach the end of their productive life span.

Many of the older trees were planted in 1995 by his father, who formerly grew fruit in South Glastonbury, where other members of the Draghi clan still farm.

Those trees have become dry and brittle over the years, he said, and some large branches have snapped to the ground this season under the weight of their fruit.

"It's time for them to go," Draghi said, inspecting one of the broken branches laden with peaches and resting gently on the orchard floor. "The peaches are much better on the younger trees anyway."

A few of the older trees were killed in the mid-February 2016 freeze that decimated the state's stone fruit crop last year. Draghi was vacationing in warmer climes when he got the news that the forecast was calling for successive days of sub-zero conditions after a relatively mild winter that prompted fruit trees to bud unusually early, leaving them

susceptible to the cold.

"I called home and my mother said it was going to be 20-below," Draghi recalled. "We knew we were in trouble, but we didn't know how bad."

When he arrived home about a week later, he cut some of the peach buds to see if they contained any green tissue that signaled they may have survived.

"They seemed okay," he said, "but when it came time for them to start blooming – nothing. We had no peaches. We had no nectarines. And the only plums we had were the later varieties."

Even without last year's disaster, Draghi said the consistent popularity of stone fruit with customers was another reason he decided to plant more peach trees.

"For me, the stone fruit business is better right now than the apple business," he said. "Peaches, nectarines and plums seem to really sell out quick at the markets."

As he walked out of the peach orchard and headed back to the farm stand Monday afternoon, Draghi was intercepted by two older women who are regular customers and were visibly disappointed that no peaches were available that day.

"Are you going to have any peaches for Wednesday?" one of them asked expectantly.

Draghi assured the pair he would be able to pick them a box.

"Okay!" the woman said excitedly. "We'll be over about 9!"



Peaches are being promoted this month through a Dept. of Agriculture program funded by a USDA Specialty Crop Grant that features advertisements on broadcast and Internet radio, as well as social media including the Department's Facebook page.

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal's Power Fence 860-491-2290.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

79-R. Combine, Gleaner, Model F Diesel. 13' grain head, 4 row corn head. Very good condition. Asking \$5,000.00. Oliver Super 88 Diesel, wide front. New rear tires. Very good condition. \$3,500.00. 860-355-1264.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

80-R. For Sale: Two tobacco racks. \$500.00 each. Suffield. 860-668-5330.

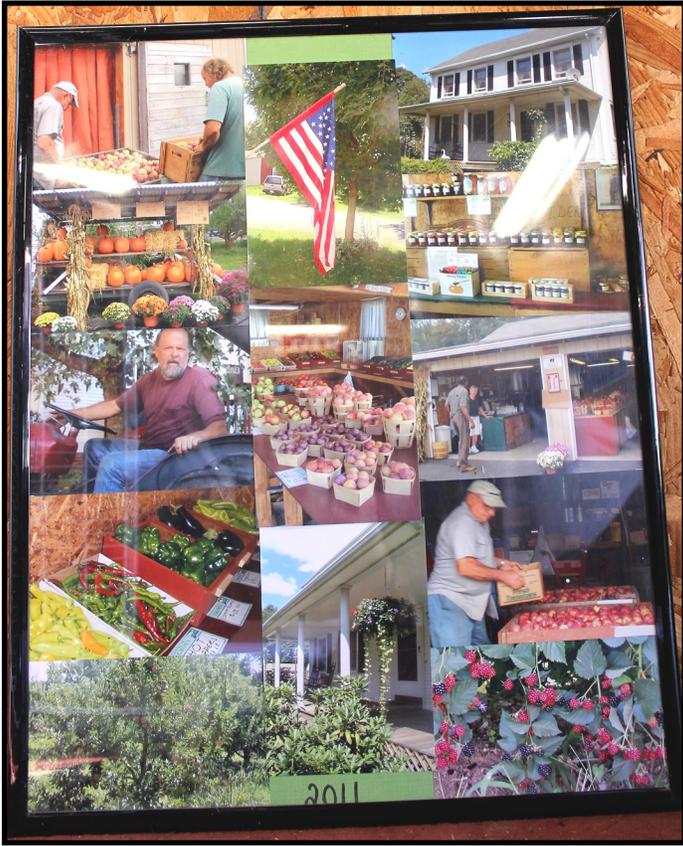
WANTED

30-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

81-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm (most any type of agriculture), commercial/business, life insurance and more! Cell: 860-377-8947. Early morning, evening, or weekend appointments available.



NEW ENGLAND/CT OBSERVATIONS FROM THE USDA/ NASS CROP PROGRESS & CONDITION REPORT FOR 7/23 THROUGH 7/30

New England averaged 6 days suitable for field work last week, experiencing much cooler and drier weather. Conditions were ideal for harvesting and field maintenance throughout the week. Regional average weekly temperatures ranged from 10 to 2 degrees below normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.04 to 1.78 inches throughout the region.

CONNECTICUT

Litchfield County/ Richard Meinert

Early planted silage corn is tasseling. Sweet corn available at farm stands is showing evidence of poor pollination.

www.nass.usda.gov/nh

Above left: A collage of photographs hanging on the wall of the retail stand at Draghi Farms, including some showing original owner Peter Draghi working the farm.

Below left: The snapped branch of an older peach tree, which will be cut down to make room for new ones.

Below right: A basket of Shiro plums for sale at the farm.

Page 1 left: A view of the farm from Scantic Road.

Page 1 right: Gary Draghi checking the ripeness of a peach tree.

Page 1 below center: Picking baskets sit below a tree nearly ready for harvest.



Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact Jane.Murdock@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd. Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 30, August 2, 2017

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
www.CTgrown.gov 860-713-2500

Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky
steven.reviczky@ct.gov 860-713-2501

Agricultural Development
and Resource Preservation Linda Piotrowicz
linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov 860-713-2503

Regional Market Linda Piotrowicz
linda.piotrowicz@ct.gov 860-566-3699

Regulatory Services Dr. Bruce Sherman
bruce.sherman@ct.gov 860-713-2504

State Veterinarian Dr. Mary J. Lis
mary.lis@ct.gov 860-713-2505

Aquaculture David Carey
david.carey@ct.gov 203-874-2855

Agricultural Report Editor Steve Jensen
steve.jensen@ct.gov 860-713-2519